



GROWING A HINOKI CYPRESS

Bonsai
Trees

Soils
Fertilizer
Sundries

Bonsai Southwest

Pots
Tools

Pre-Bonsai
Suiseki

0781 714 7416
www.bonsaisouthwest.co.uk
bonsaisouthwest@hotmail.com

As a bonsai, this species needs constant foliage maintenance, because if the trees are not pruned frequently the lower and interior branches will not get sufficient sunlight and die. There are a few dwarf cultivars which are very well suited for small bonsai, like Yatsubusa, Chirimen and Sekka, with very small and compact foliage.

Chamaecyparis obtusa bonsai 'Nana gracilis' is a nice dwarf ornamental tree but rather difficult for bonsai as it does not bud from old wood. It is usually grafted and the rootstock often produces an ugly swelling at the trunk base.

Position

The hinoki cypress needs a place in full sun during the growing season. In winter it also needs much light. Protect the trees against hard frost and icy winds.

DO NOT GROW INDOORS.

Watering

Water the hinoki cypress as soon as the soil gets dry, but don't keep the roots soaking wet all the time. Use lime-free water. In winter water less but never let the rootball dry out completely. The foliage likes humidity and can suffer when exposed to hot dry wind.

Watering daily as a routine when it is not required, results in soggy compost which will lead to lack of vigour, root rot and eventually death. Learn to water correctly for best results.

Feeding

Apply solid organic fertilizer every four weeks or use a balanced liquid fertilizer every week during the growing season. Always apply the liquid fertilizer on moist soil.

Pruning, Wiring & Development

The foliage must regularly be trimmed in order to remove excess and overlapping fan-shaped shoots which would shade the inner and lower twigs. If the inner leaves are not exposed to sufficient sunlight they will die and not regrow. The branches of the hinoki bonsai take some time to keep their wired positions. It will be necessary to rewire them several time. Styling can be done at any time of the year.

Repotting

Repot the hinoki cypress every two to four years, very old specimens can wait even longer. The roots grow quite quickly and can be pruned considerably. Use a well-draining soil mix, but in hot climates add a bit more humus for water retention. Hinoki cypress does not like lime and prefers slightly acidic soil. Use a free-draining soil medium, such as a mixture of akadama, lava rock and pumice in a ratio of 2:1:1. The soil particle size should be approximately 2mm—6mm for medium and large trees, and slightly small for shohin size bonsai. If in any doubt please seek professional help or advice.

Don't repot for the sake of it. Repot only when the tree has obviously filled the pot with roots or when water will not percolate into the soil and drain freely.

Pests and diseases

Scale and spider mites sometimes bother the hinoki cypress Bonsai, then use a specific pesticide. If tip blight occurs, a special fungicide is needed. Red spider mites require an acaricide or lime sulphur treatment. If mildew or rust occurs, a special fungicide is needed. A winter wash with lime sulphur will eradicate overwintering pests and help to control fungal problems..

DISCLAIMER: The content provided in this article is not warranted or guaranteed by Bonsai Southwest. The content provided is intended for educational purposes in order to introduce to the reader key horticultural considerations. We are not liable for any negative consequences that may result from implementing any information covered in our articles or tutorials.

If you have any worries or questions please don't hesitate to contact me or seek more local professional help and advice.